

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Morgan Zeitler  
Sector Superintendent  
(707) 937-5804

MARCH 12, 2010

## Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve To Remain Open On Weekends During Park Improvements

**MENDOCINO, Calif.** - One of the gems of the California State Park system, Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, is about to become easier to find, visit, and enjoy. But that wasn't always the case. For several years park visitors were directed to the Reserve by way of a dirt parking lot, two small signs and a tiny wooden outhouse located on a hidden trail that was not easily accessible to the public or disabled individuals. Thanks to our long time partner, [Save the Redwoods League](#), the entrance to Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve will be receiving several improvements to enhance visitor experience and improve accessibility.

By mid-summer, improvements to the Reserve will include an interpretive kiosk, new trail signage, enhanced park access, improved parking facilities as well as new accessible restrooms and picnic tables under the giant trees.

Future improvements include custom interpretive exhibits and accessible trail improvements so that most visitors will be able to get far enough up the trail to experience the natural serenity. All this is the result of an extensive environmental design and review process which is intended to make the Reserve more accessible while protecting the Reserve's sensitive features. It should also be noted that this project is being overseen by a local design and engineering firm, which benefits the local economy.

Save the Redwoods League has worked tirelessly to protect this and other state parks for decades. The League's conservation efforts here started small, with a 9-acre donation by naturalist Robert Orr to the League in 1943. By 2008 the League had helped boost the acreage to more than 2,100 acres. "We are thrilled to provide additional support to our park partners whenever possible," said Ruskin Hartley, executive director, Save the Redwoods League. "This project is particularly important to us and to park visitors around the world because the park enhancements will not only make access easier for the general public but, it will also provide improved facilities for all users. Now many more people will be able to be enchanted by some of the tallest and most charismatic trees in the world."

Save the Redwoods League has also entered into an agreement with California State Parks that allows the League to undertake the entrance and parking lot improvements. This will move the project forward sooner than would be possible otherwise.

The work is scheduled to begin May 3, 2010, weather permitting. The parking lot will be closed Monday through Friday for two to three months, until approximately July 30, 2010.

On weekends access to the Reserve will be allowed though the construction area but parking will be limited to areas along Orr Springs Road. Please help pass the word to other visitors who you know frequent the Reserve. We want your next visit to be well worth the trip.

For additional information please, contact Morgan Zeitler, California State Parks at (707) 937-5804 or Jennifer Benito, Save the Redwoods League at (415) 820-5814.

### **About California State Parks**

California State Parks manages more than 5 million acres that make up California's 278 state parks. These include beaches, museums, recreation areas, state vehicular recreation areas, state reserves and historic parks. The department's mission is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

### **About Save the Redwoods League**

For more than 90 years, Save the Redwoods League has been dedicated to protecting the ancient redwood forests so all generations can experience the inspiration and majesty of redwoods. In 1850, there were nearly 2 million acres of ancient coast redwood forests in California. Today, less than 5 percent remains and faces threats from unsustainable logging practices, poorly planned development and global climate change. Since its founding in 1918, the League has completed the purchase of more than 187,000 acres of land. For more information, please visit [SaveTheRedwoods.org](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org), or to receive monthly e-mail updates, sign up at [SaveTheRedwoods.org](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org)

###